

FRUIT

Five major fruit and berry crops grow in the Garden State: apples, peaches, blueberries, cranberries, and strawberries. Overall weather conditions were generally favorable for fruit and berry crops during 1998. However, early heavy spring rains reduced pollination because of bee inactivity, and late scattered spring frosts caused some fruit and berry drop. The summer of 1998 was very warm and dry which caused some sizing problems in the fruit crops. Mild weather conditions during the winter did not adversely affect apple or peach trees. However, an unusually mild spring caused some early bloom in peaches which were vulnerable to late spring frosts.

Total production of the five fruit and berry crops during 1998 amounted to 212.1 million pounds, down 1 percent from 1997 production of 214.2 million pounds. Value of utilized production of the above crops totaled \$83.8 million, a loss of \$21.2 million from the 1997 total of \$105.0 million.

During 1998, among all major fruit and berry producing states in the nation, New Jersey ranked second in blueberry production; third in cranberry production; third in peach production; and fourteenth in apple production. Ranking crops by value of production within the state resulted in peaches first with \$30.5 million. Blueberries ranked second with \$28.4 million, while cranberries ranked third with \$17.4 million. Apples and strawberries ranked fourth and fifth with \$6.6 million and \$0.9 million.

Apple production for New Jersey totaled 55.0 million pounds in 1998, unchanged from 1997. Utilized production, at 54.0 million pounds, accounted for 98 percent of total production. In 1998, Gloucester county was the leading producer, accounting for 49 percent of the State's total production. Burlington and Camden counties tied for

second with production at 3.0 million pounds, while Monmouth and Cumberland ranked third at 2.6 million pounds.

Total peach production for 1998 totaled 70.0 million pounds, an increase of 5.0 million from the 65.0 million pounds produced in 1997. The 1998 value of New Jersey peach production totaled \$30.5 million, up 5 percent from 1997. Gloucester county was the leading peach growing county in the state with production of 31.0 million pounds or 44 percent of the total State's production. Cumberland and Camden counties ranked second and third with production of 16.5 and 6.5 million pounds, respectively.

The 1998 blueberry production was estimated at 37.0 million pounds up 2.0 million pounds from 1997. Value of utilized production was \$28.4 million compared to 1997's value of \$34.0 million. Atlantic and Burlington counties are the leading blueberry producing areas. The season average price of 78.8 cents per pound was down 21 percent from 99.9 cents per pound in 1997.

Cranberry growers in New Jersey produced 521,000 barrels in 1998, an decrease of 61,000 barrels from the 1997 record high crop. The value of utilized production was \$17.4 million, down 47 percent from \$32.9 million in 1997. Burlington county is the major cranberry producing area in the Garden State.

Strawberry growers harvested 20,000 cwt. of strawberries in 1998, same as in 1997. The area harvested, at 450 acres, was the same as planted acres. The season average price was \$44.20 per hundredweight for 1998; the lowest price since 1980. Value of utilized production was \$0.9 million compared with \$1.7 million in 1997.

**NEW JERSEY: FRUIT AND BERRY PRODUCTION,
UTILIZATION AND VALUE, 1993 - 1998**

Crop Year	Production 1/		Utilization		Season Avg. Price Per Unit 3/	Value of Utilized Production (\$1,000)
	Total	Utilized	Fresh 2/	Processed		
APPLES (million pounds)						
1993	75.0	73.0	38.0	35.0	15.9	11,629
1994	70.0	68.0	35.0	33.0	15.7	10,654
1995	75.0	72.0	37.0	35.0	15.9	11,437
1996	60.0	58.0	27.0	31.0	15.1	8,781
1997	55.0	55.0	22.0	33.0	13.2	7,271
1998 1/	55.0	54.0	22.0	32.0	12.2	6,608
PEACHES (million pounds)						
1993	90.0	85.0	85.0	4/	29.8	25,288
1994	75.0	69.0	69.0	4/	32.9	22,685
1995	70.0	68.0	68.0	4/	38.5	26,180
1996	78.0	77.0	77.0	4/	43.7	33,649
1997	65.0	65.0	65.0	4/	44.9	29,185
1998 1/	70.0	68.0	68.0	4/	44.9	30,518
BLUEBERRIES (thousand pounds)						
1993	32,500	31,500	24,000	7,500	79.4	25,005
1994	32,500	31,500	21,000	10,500	73.7	23,205
1995	36,000	35,000	25,000	10,000	75.7	26,500
1996	35,000	34,000	23,000	11,000	97.1	33,010
1997	35,000	34,000	24,000	10,000	99.8	33,980
1998 1/	37,000	36,000	28,000	8,000	78.8	28,360
STRAWBERRIES (thousand cwt)						
1993	18	18	18	---	85.50	1,539
1994	14	14	14	---	54.20	759
1995	15	15	15	---	62.90	944
1996	16	16	16	---	68.80	1,101
1997	20	20	20	---	83.30	1,666
1998 1/	20	20	20	---	44.20	884
CRANBERRIES (thousand barrels)						
1993	386	386	---	384	47.20	18,219
1994	558	558	---	554	46.60	26,003
1995	454	454	---	450	50.00	22,700
1996	467	467	---	461	61.80	28,861
1997	582	582	---	579	56.60	32,941
1998 1/	521	521	---	518	33.40	17,401

1/ Difference between total production and that having utilized value is economic abandonment and/or excess cullage of mature fruit.

For cranberries, differences also include the quantity set aside under the cranberry Marketing Order.

2/ Includes quantities used in farm household or given away.

3/ Price for apples, peaches and blueberries is in cents per pound. Price for strawberries is in dollars per cwt.

4/ Included in fresh utilization.

**NEW JERSEY: COMMERCIAL APPLE PRODUCTION,
BY COUNTIES, 1993 - 1998 1/**

County	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998 2/
million pounds						
NORTH DISTRICT						
Bergen	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.3
Hunterdon	2.5	2.5	2.3	2.4	2.0	2.2
Morris	1.0	1.5	1.4	1.0	1.0	1.5
Sussex	2.5	2.5	2.0	1.5	1.6	1.8
Warren	1.0	2.0	2.1	4.0	1.5	2.0
CENTRAL DISTRICT						
Burlington	6.0	4.0	3.0	1.5	3.0	3.0
Mercer	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.6	1.0	1.5
Middlesex	1.5	1.3	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.2
Monmouth	3.3	3.0	2.0	2.5	2.8	2.6
SOUTH DISTRICT						
Atlantic	5.0	5.0	4.2	4.0	2.8	2.5
Camden	3.0	3.0	3.5	3.5	3.0	3.0
Cumberland	4.0	3.5	2.9	3.0	2.5	2.6
Gloucester	41.0	38.0	46.2	30.0	28.0	27.0
Salem	2.0	3/	3/	3/	3/	3/
Other Counties	1.0	2.5	2.6	4.0	4.0	3.8
STATE	75.0	70.0	75.0	60.0	55.0	55.0

1/ Includes quantities not sold or utilized for some years.

2/ Preliminary.

3/ Included in other counties.

**NEW JERSEY: COMMERCIAL PEACH PRODUCTION
BY COUNTIES, 1993 - 1998 1/**

County	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998 2/
million pounds						
NORTH DISTRICT						
Bergen	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.4
Hunterdon	0.7	0.2	0.5	0.4	0.8	1.3
Morris	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3
Sussex	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3
Warren	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.6
CENTRAL DISTRICT						
Burlington	3.5	2.7	2.4	3.1	2.5	2.0
Mercer	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	3/
Middlesex	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.4
Monmouth	2.0	1.3	0.8	1.5	0.5	0.7
SOUTH DISTRICT						
Atlantic	8.5	6.5	5.0	7.4	5.0	4.5
Camden	12.0	12.0	10.0	11.0	8.0	6.5
Cumberland	21.0	15.0	15.5	17.5	15.2	16.5
Gloucester	36.0	32.0	32.5	33.0	30.0	31.0
Other counties	3.6	3.2	1.5	2.0	1.0	5.5
STATE	90.0	75.0	70.0	78.0	65.0	70.0

1/ Includes quantities not sold or utilized for some years.

2/ Preliminary.

3/ Included in other counties.

NEW JERSEY: BLUEBERRIES, BY COUNTIES, 1993 - 1998

County	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998 1/
Acres harvested						
CENTRAL DISTRICT Burlington	2,400	2,100	2,000	1,900	1,700	1,700
SOUTH DISTRICT Atlantic	4,900	4,900	5,000	5,100	5,300	5,400
Other Counties	800	600	600	500	400	400
STATE	8,100	7,600	7,600	7,500	7,400	7,500
Yield per acre (lbs.)						
CENTRAL DISTRICT Burlington	2,290	2,380	2,000	1,840	1,650	2,240
SOUTH DISTRICT Atlantic	5,140	5,270	6,060	5,860	5,770	5,850
Other Counties	1,000	1,170	1,170	1,200	1,500	1,500
STATE	3,890	4,140	4,610	4,530	4,590	4,800
Utilized production						
CENTRAL DISTRICT Burlington	5,500	5,000	4,000	3,500	2,800	3,800
SOUTH DISTRICT Atlantic	25,200	25,800	30,300	29,900	30,600	31,600
Other Counties	800	700	700	600	600	600
STATE	31,500	31,500	35,000	34,000	34,000	36,000

1/ Preliminary.

NEW JERSEY: STRAWBERRY ACREAGE, BY COUNTIES, 1993 - 1998

County	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998 1/
Acres harvested						
CENTRAL DISTRICT Burlington	75	50	75	75	75	75
Monmouth	75	50	75	75	50	50
SOUTH DISTRICT Cumberland	75	100	75	75	75	75
Gloucester	75	100	75	75	50	50
Other counties	200	150	150	150	200	200
STATE	500	450	450	450	450	450

1/ Preliminary.

NEW JERSEY: CRANBERRY ACREAGE, BY STATES, 1993 - 1998

STATE	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998 1/
Acres harvested						
NEW JERSEY	3,400	3,300	3,500	3,600	3,900	3,900
Massachusetts	13,100	13,500	14,100	14,200	14,600	14,500
Wisconsin	10,000	11,100	12,000	12,900	13,700	14,400
Washington	1,400	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,600
Oregon	1,500	1,700	1,700	1,800	2,000	2,200
TOTAL ACREAGE	29,400	31,100	32,800	34,000	35,700	36,600
Barrels per acre						
NEW JERSEY	113.5	169.1	129.7	129.7	149.2	133.6
Massachusetts	143.5	144.6	112.9	121.3	143.8	130.0
Wisconsin	136.0	147.7	150.0	154.3	167.9	175.2
Washington	97.9	134.7	118.0	120.0	110.0	105.0
Oregon	104.0	194.1	100.0	173.3	175.0	161.4
AVERAGE YIELD	133.3	150.5	127.8	137.4	154.0	149.1
Production (barrels)						
NEW JERSEY	386,000	558,000	454,000	467,000	582,000	521,000
Massachusetts	1,880,000	1,952,000	1,592,000	1,722,000	2,100,000	1,872,000
Wisconsin	1,360,000	1,640,000	1,800,000	1,990,000	2,300,000	2,540,000
Washington	137,000	202,000	177,000	180,000	165,000	168,000
Oregon	156,000	330,000	170,000	312,000	350,000	355,000
TOTAL PRODUCTION	3,919,000	4,682,000	4,193,000	4,671,000	5,497,000	5,456,000

1/ Preliminary.

NEW JERSEY: FRUITS AND BERRIES, USUAL FULL BLOOM AND HARVESTING DATES

Crop	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov
Apples								
Peaches								
Grapes								
Cranberries								
Blueberries								
Strawberries								

Planting

Begins Most Active Ends
Harvest